

WHITE RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

A community driven project to address non-point source water pollution for a better quality of life.

Goal: To create watershed management plans to clean-up and prevent non-point source water pollution.

Mission: The White River Watershed Project is a citizen partnership dedicated to developing watershed plans to improve water quality.

Vision: Our vision is that the White River will improve the quality of life of our community by safely serving its various needs while supporting wildlife diversity.

Project Basics:

- **Community Driven, Local Decisions, Voluntary Action**
- EPA funded; Awarded by IDEM
- Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District = Contract Holder
- Three Year Planning Grant: Began July 1, 2001 and Ends June 30, 2004
- Total project budget is \$303,000

5 Steps to Successful Completion of the Planning Phase:

1. Select 3 Sub-Watersheds – *Completed*
2. Look at Current Conditions in Sub-Watersheds – *In Progress*
 - Conduct water quality monitoring – *Began July 2002 & Continuing to March 2004*
 - Conduct land use surveys and ID community thoughts and concerns – *Completed*
3. Analyze Findings – *In Progress*
 - Identify specific NPS pollutants and potential sources – *In Progress*
 - Identify contributing land uses and practices (or lack of them) – *In Progress*
4. Address Findings – *Began July 2003; Draft Plan Due October 2003/Final Due June 2004*
 - Prioritize findings and develop/suggest on-the-ground practices – *In Progress*
 - Co-develop action plans to fit needs/desires of each sub-watershed – *In Progress*
5. Write and Implement Watershed Management Plans
 - Distribute and implement plan– *In Progress = Implementation Begins July 2004*

Initial Water Quality Concerns:

Public Health

Drinking Water
Fish Consumption Advisories

Natural Habitat

Wildlife Diversity
Aesthetics

Recreation

Fishing; Boating; Swimming



Potential Causes:

Agricultural Runoff

Nutrients; Pesticides; Sediment

Urban/Suburban Runoff

Failing Septic Systems – *E. coli*
Combined Sewer Overflows – *E. coli*
Impervious Surfaces
Chemicals/Pesticides/Herbicides
Nutrients/Fertilizers



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Monitoring Results:

Buck Creek

E. coli, ammonia, nitrate, phosphorus, and total suspended solids are at levels considered problematic. Biotic communities (stream biology) were also found to be lower than expected given the habitat analysis results.

Killbuck/Mud Creek

E. coli, ammonia, nitrate, phosphorus, total suspended solids are at levels considered problematic. Biological and habitat results were low.

Prairie Creek

E. coli, ammonia, nitrate and phosphorus are at levels considered problematic. The quality of biology and habitat varies with the individual tributaries studied.

Atrazine was tested for at the most downstream sampling points on each of the watersheds, as well as on the most upstream and downstream sampling points conducted on the main stem of the White River. At all of these points, Atrazine was within detectable limits.

Local Decision Makers:

Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District – 5 Board Members, 4 Associates, 2 Employees

Steering Committee - 18 Community Representatives

Watershed Committees – 3 Committees (for each studied watershed), 40 Community Members

Technical Committees – 3 Committees (Monitoring, Outreach/Education, GIS), 30 Community Members

Advisory Committee - 25 Community Representatives

Community Partners and Volunteers -Over 100 organizations and individuals; 8120 hours as of 9/03

Current Funding:

IDEM/EPA	\$225,000
Delaware County Government	\$10,000 (FY2001 EDIT funds)
Community Foundation	\$10,000
George and Frances Ball Foundation	\$10,000
Ball Brothers Foundation	\$10,000
Indiana-American Water Company	\$ 1,000
In-Kind (Volunteer) Time	<u>\$37,000</u> original commitment; \$107,403.06 as of 10/03
TOTAL	\$303,000

Proposed Implementation Project (July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2007):

Note: Costs includes salary and benefits for a full-time Watershed Coordinator.

Education and Outreach - \$131,700 (96,700 IDEM grant + 15,500 cash match + 19,500 in-kind)

Conduct education and outreach campaign specifically promoting actions that would result in a reduction of specific non-point source water pollutants. (This will include workshops, publications, public meetings, field days and events targeting various non-point source pollution issues.)

Technical Assistance - \$184,200 (145,200 IDEM grant + 19,500 cash match + 19,500 in-kind)

Install best management practices (with landowner cost-share) and provide cost-free technical assistance (contract a technician/technical firm) to landowners and operators in the three watersheds.

Water Monitoring and Measuring Success - \$84,100 (58,100 IDEM grant + 16,000 cash match + 10,000 in-kind)

Identify species source of *E. coli* pollution and continue modified monitoring efforts to track implementation program success.

WRWP Web Page: www.co.delaware.in.us/Watershed/